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reading on your own

STEP 3

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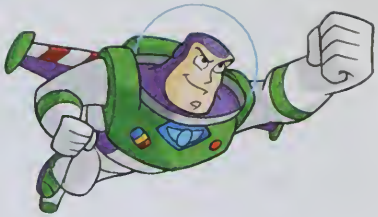

Dear Parent:

Congratulations! Your child is taking the first steps on an exciting journey. The destination? Independent reading!

STEP INTO READING® will help your child get there. The program offers books at five levels that accompany children from their first attempts at reading to reading success. Each step includes fun stories, fiction and nonfiction, and colorful art. There are also Step into Reading Sticker Books, Step into Reading Math Readers, and Step into Reading Phonics Readers—a complete literacy program with something to interest every child.

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STEP INTO READING® is designed to give every child a successful reading experience. The grade levels are only guides. Children can progress through the steps at their own speed, developing confidence in their reading, no matter what their grade.

Remember, a lifetime love of reading starts with a single step!

To Carl
—M.M.

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STEP INTO READING®

STEP 3

Disney · PIXAR

BUZZ LIGHTYEAR of STAR COMMAND

BUZZ VS. TORQUE: One-On-One

By Mark McVeigh

Illustrated by Atelier Philippe Harchy

Random House New York

Booster and XR of Star Command
walked into the Black Hole.
It was a scary place full of bad guys.

But they had a job to do.

The Space Rangers
had to arrest a bad guy
named Torque.
Booster was excited.
XR just wanted to go home!

TORQUE
{ TORK }

Booster spotted Torque.

"You are under arrest," he said.

But Torque was always

ready for a fight.

No one was going to get *him*!

Booster was in trouble.
"If only Buzz Lightyear
were here," said XR.

Buzz *was* there!

And so was Mira.

Buzz zapped Torque's

laser gun.

Mira launched
an energy net at him.
The Space Rangers moved
in fast to arrest him.

"Four against one,"

Buzz said to Torque.

"You never had a chance."

Guardbots led Torque away.
A prison ship was waiting.
"I hope you like the Prison
Planet," said Buzz.

On the way
to the Prison Planet,
Hornets attacked the ship.
They kidnapped Torque!

The Hornets sped Torque
to Planet Z instead.
Evil Emperor Zurg
needed Torque to help him
with an evil plan.

Torque was led into
Zurg's throne room.
"I am going to give you
special powers," said Zurg.
"And then I want you
to get Buzz Lightyear."

Torque was scared.
But he *did* want
to get back at Buzz.
Zurg gave the signal.
Huge lasers zapped Torque!

When it was over,

Torque tested his new powers.

He thumped his chest plate.

One Torque . . .

turned into

two Torques . . .

turned into

three Torques!

It worked!

Zurg smiled an evil smile.

"Go get Buzz NOW!" he said.

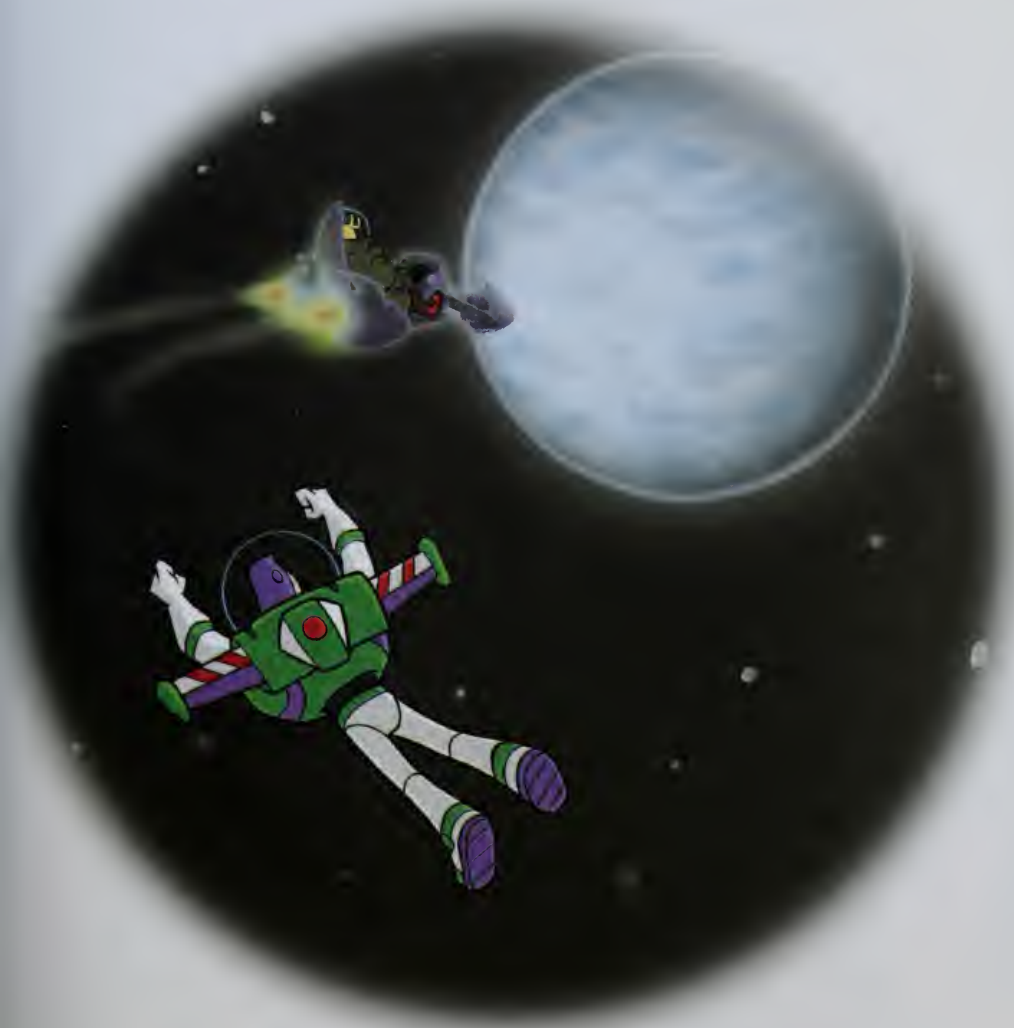
Back in Tanker Alley,
the Space Rangers
were on safety duty.

They were fixing the buoys
that kept tankers
from crashing.

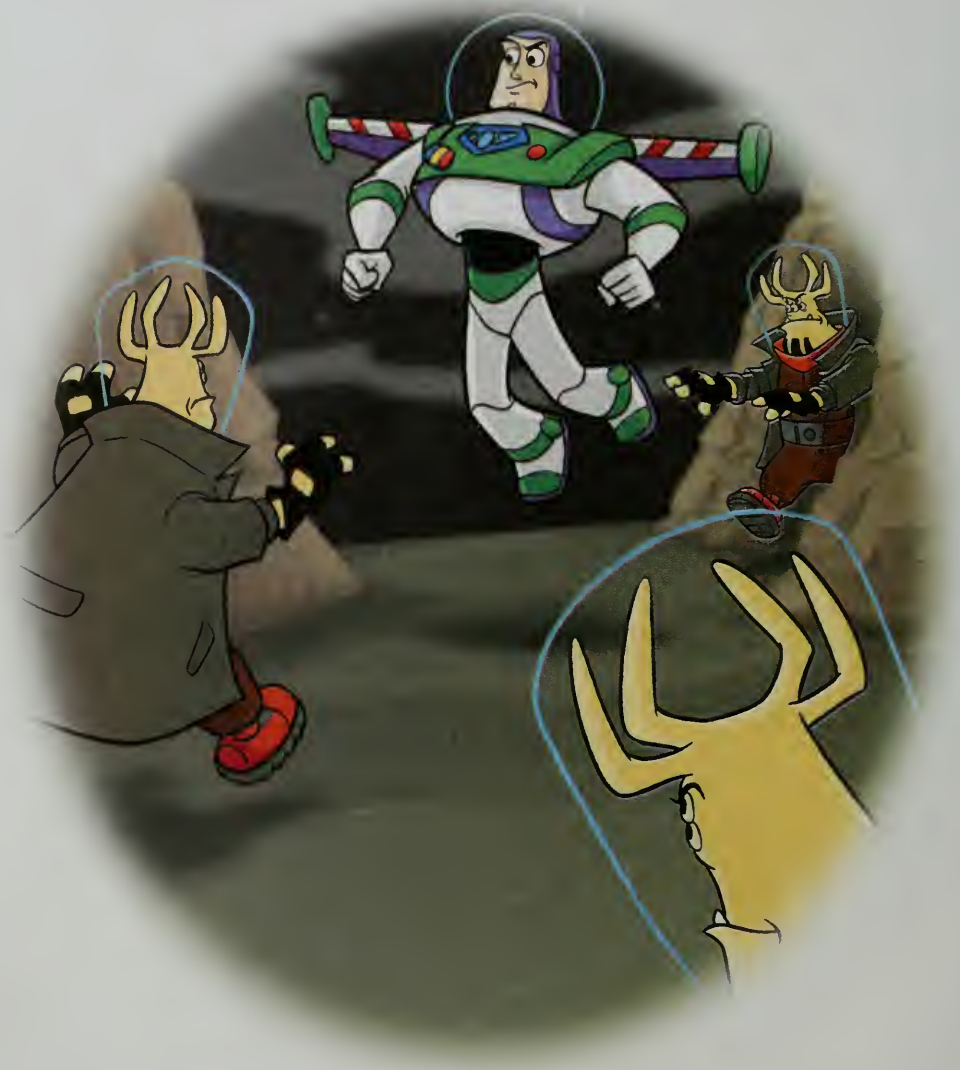
Space Ranger Rocket Crockett
flew up with bad news.
"The prison ship was attacked
by Hornets," said Rocket.
"Torque escaped!"

Buzz could not wait
to look for Torque.

He did not have to wait long.
Torque came looking for *him*!
"Hiya, Buzzy," said Torque.



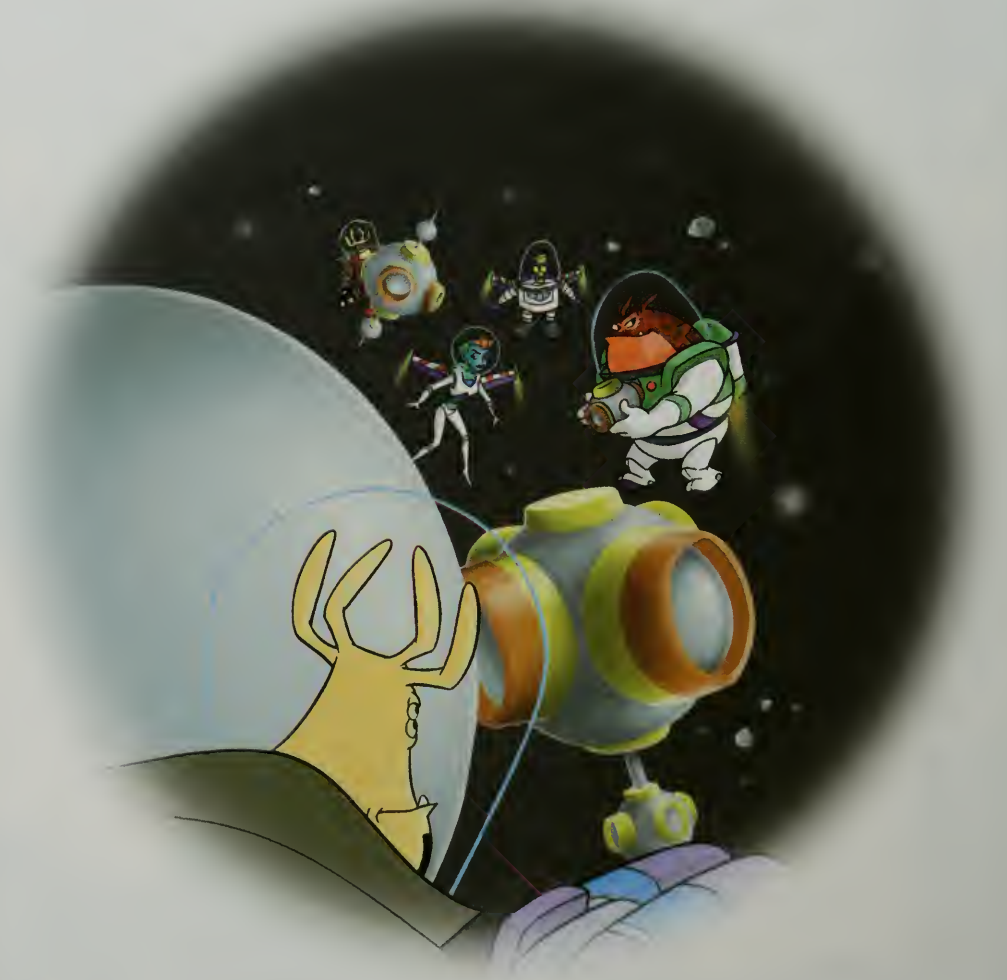
Buzz took off after him.
He would fight Torque
one-on-one!
Or would he?



Buzz followed Torque.
When he landed, he saw
that Torque had multiplied!
Buzz counted *three* of him.
And more kept coming!

Buzz alone was no match
for this many bad guys!
Where were the other
Space Rangers
when he needed them?

They were in Tanker Alley,
still fixing safety buoys.
Mira, Booster, and XR
were worried.
Buzz had been missing
for hours.



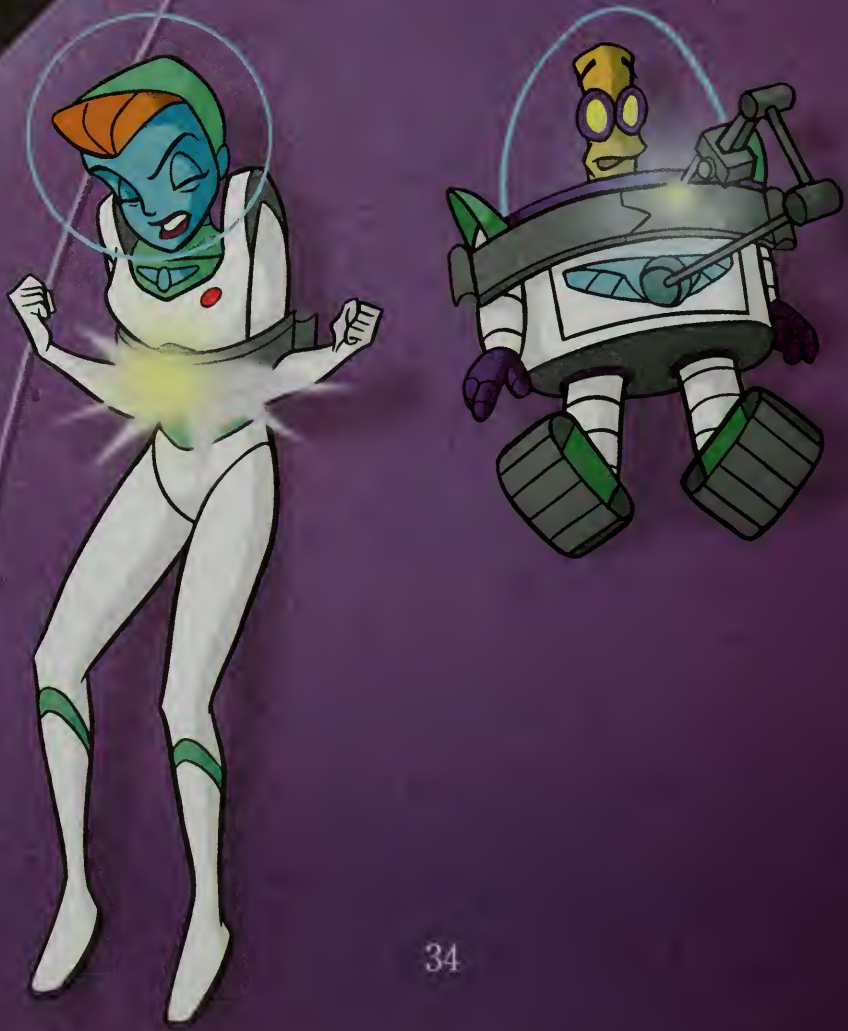
All of a sudden,
many Torques attacked!

They tied the Space Rangers
to a runaway fuel tanker.
"When Buzz comes back,
you will be sorry," said XR.

"Oh, yeah?" said a Torque.
Two Torques slammed Buzz
onto the tanker.
They tied *him* down, too.
Buzz was out cold!

The tanker was speeding
right for Capital Planet.
"Leaping lasers!" said Booster.
"We have to do something!"

Luckily,
each of the Space Rangers
had a special power.
Mira slipped out of the bonds
like a ghost.
XR cut himself free with a laser.



Booster broke free
with his huge muscles.

Mira checked the tanker's steering and brakes. They were broken!

Booster shook Buzz awake.
"Wake up, Buzz!" he said.
"Capital Planet is toast
if this tanker hits!"

Buzz got an idea—

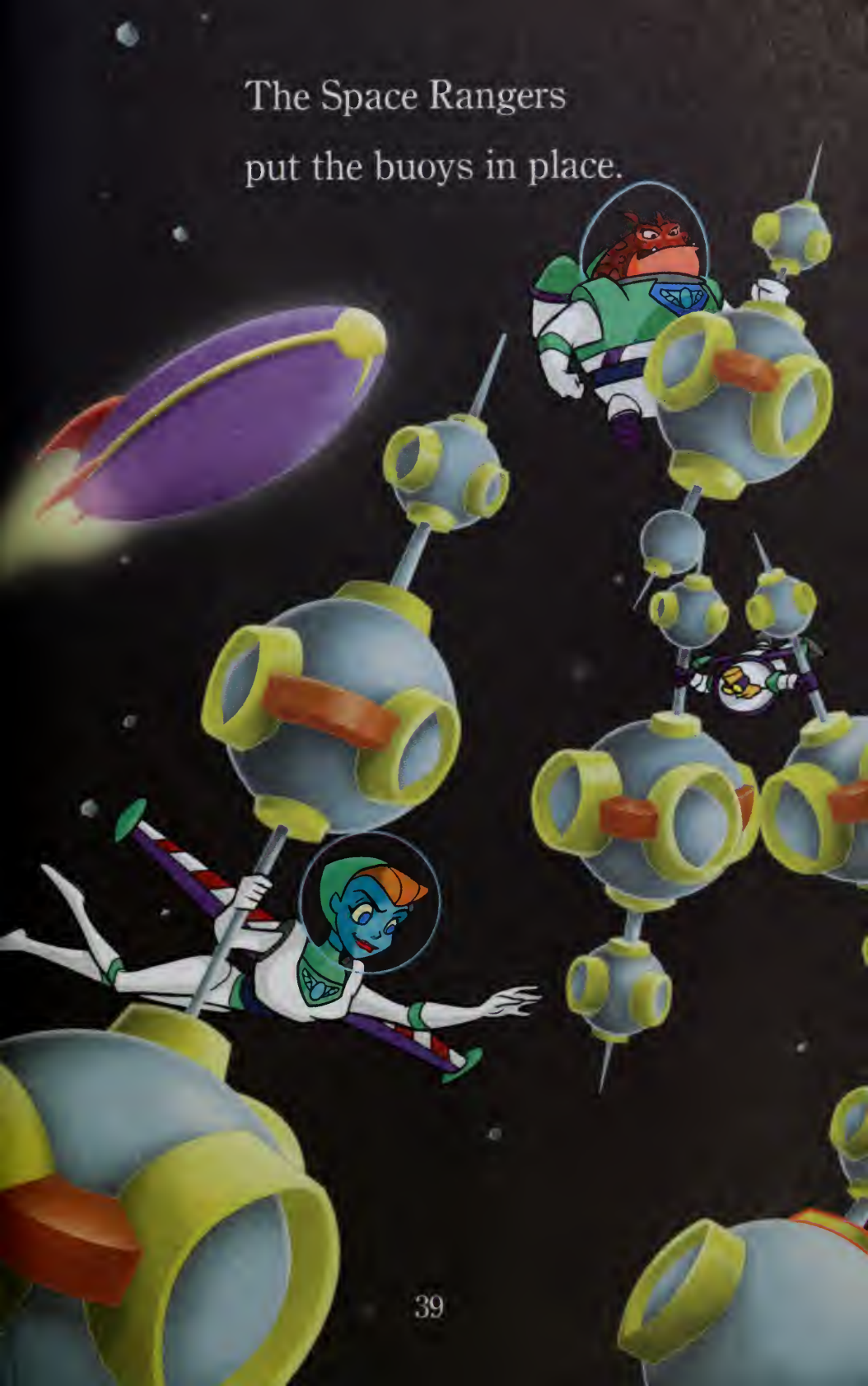
the safety buoys!

He jetted back to Tanker Alley.

The others followed.

One by one, they grabbed buoys.

The Space Rangers
put the buoys in place.



They made a path leading
away from Capital Planet.
The tanker ran into a buoy
and bounced off into space.
Capital Planet was safe.
"We did it!" shouted Buzz.

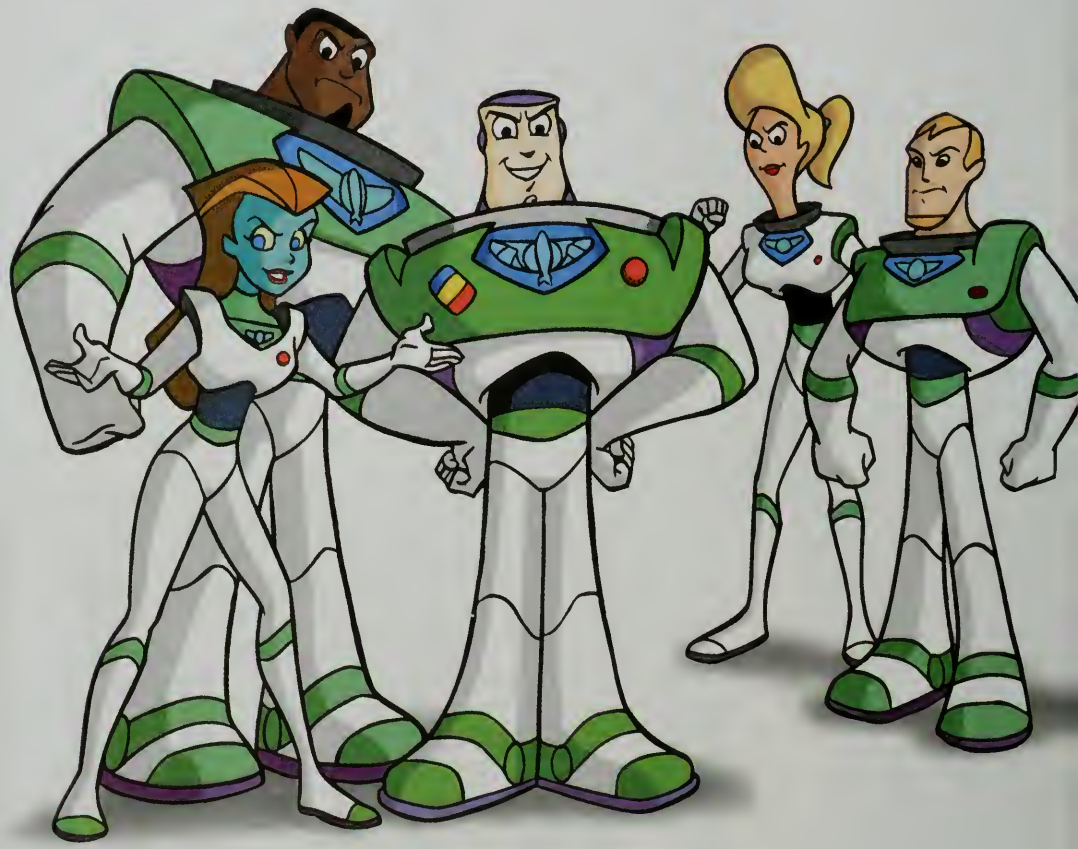
But there was still one problem—
or was it two or three?
It was time to track down
the army of Torques.
The Space Rangers headed
back to the Black Hole.

The Torques were all there.
"You boys sure seem happy,"
said Buzz.
"But not for long."

Space Rangers filled the room.

"*We* outnumber *you*!" said Mira.

"Take them, Rangers!" yelled Buzz.



It was a big battle.
But the Space Rangers
worked together.

Every Torque was rounded up.
Guardbots led them all onto
the prison ship.

The Torques were
chained together this time!

"Today is Torque's lucky day,"
said Buzz.
"I hear the Prison Planet
is offering a group discount!"
Buzz and his Space Rangers
headed for Star Command.

"To infinity and beyond!"

If you are reading on your own and are ready for longer stories, look for these Step into Reading books:

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ARTHUR, CLEAN YOUR ROOM! ❑
ARTHUR IN A PICKLE ❑
ARTHUR TRICKS THE TOOTH FAIRY ❑
ARTHUR'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL SURPRISE ❑
ARTHUR'S FIRE DRILL ❑
ARTHUR'S FIRST KISS ❑
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BEANS BAKER BOUNCES BACK
BEANS BAKER, NUMBER FIVE
BEARS: LIFE IN THE WILD
THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE MISSING WATERMELON MONEY
THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE TIC-TAC-TOE MYSTERY
THE BEST MISTAKE EVER! And Other Stories
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HUNGRY, HUNGRY SHARKS
IT'S NOT MARSHA'S BIRTHDAY
JOHNNY APPLESEED: My Story
LEWIS AND CLARK: A Prairie Dog for the President
LITTLE WITCH GOES TO SCHOOL
LITTLE WITCH LEARNS TO READ
LITTLE WITCH'S BAD DREAM
LITTLE WITCH'S BIG NIGHT
LUCKY STAR
THE MAGIC APPLE
MARSHA IS ONLY A FLOWER
MARSHA MAKES ME SICK
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THE NUTCRACKER BALLET
THE PARAKEET GIRL
PIONEER BEAR
PURPLE PICKLE JUICE ❍
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SHINING STAR
THE SLOTHS GET A PET
S-S-SNAKES!
THE SURPRISE PARTY
THE TRUE STORY OF POCAHONTAS
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WHALES: The Gentle Giants
WILD, WILD WOLVES

❑ An Arthur Step into Reading Sticker Book
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✧ A Math Reader

STEP 3

STEP INTO READING

reading on your own

It's time for YOU!
Pick your favorite spot to read.
This is going to be a great book!

What this book is about . . .

Buzz vs. Torque: One-on-One

Buzz gets more than he bargained for when he tangles with Torque. Who will outnumber whom in the end?

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To learn about all the Steps, turn to page 1.

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